



The City Scene

E M P L O Y E E N E W S L E T T E R

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

10th Annual

Rutherford County

American HeartWalk

October 26, 2003, 1 – 3 pm

Plan now to

walk with
your City of

Mur-

freesboro

team. The

American

HeartWalk

helps fight

heart disease and stroke by

raising money to support lifesav-

ing research, programs and

education. It also helps people

take the first steps toward a
heart-healthy lifestyle by becom-

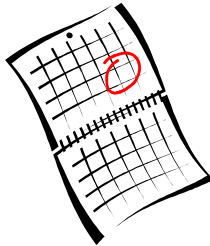
ing more physically active.

For more information, call

Patsy Smith in Administration,

893-2629, or call her at city hall

extension 144.



Roger Haley Update

Murfreesboro City Manager Roger Haley is recovering and doing well after his July 4 heart attack. He comes into the office briefly several times a week, looks good and says he feels good. He is closely following a regimen of exercise, diet and stress management that would be a good lifestyle for us all. Mr. Haley plans to begin partial days back in the office later this month.



Wilson Wins Contest

Lee Wilson, Murfreesboro Administrative Executive Assistant, was winner of the "Name that Newsletter" contest recently completed. A team from the city's public information committee made the selection based on total votes cast. The prize was a \$25 Toot's gift certificate.

Gannon oversees the work crew

You see them in city hall ... maintenance employees who claim a low profile – that is, until they are needed.

Ed Gannon is a part-timer. He came to work in 1994 soon after he retired from 43 years in the vehicle body and fender work business.

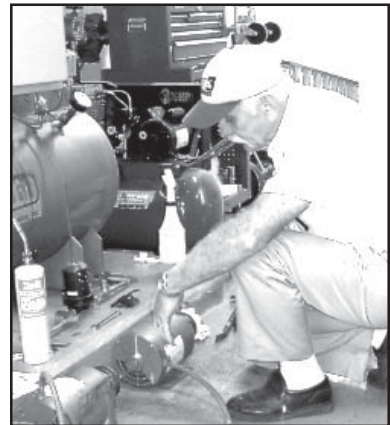
He is married to Dorothy Geneva and the couple will soon celebrate 50 years together. The couple has three children, Edward Gannon Jr., Diane Speck and Dorothy Ann, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Asked if anything special is planned for the golden occasion, Gannon just shrugs and says, "They've got something planned ... how we are going to dress up and all. I said I was going to get a monkey suit."

Gannon manages the county work crews that perform odd jobs around city hall and elsewhere on city properties.

"We do jobs that the others can't get to," Gannon said one day. "I pick them (workhouse crew) up and take them out then back in the evening. Some get time off for work – others don't."

The crew foreman said he came from a family of 12 and still lives within three miles of where he was born. He was in the service for five years as a radar technician and, for a hobby, liked to restore old cars until the "work got old."



"The beauty of people is that, like flowers, we come in all shapes, sizes, and colors" - Kristine Carlson, Writer

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Wilson Wins Contest
Gannon Profile
- 2 Patterson Park
Community Center
- 3 Cut a Rug!
Fire Department Services
- 4 No New Property Taxes
Births / Retirees
City Cooks!

Patterson Park Community Center opens August 2nd

By J.J. Johnson, Patterson
Center Superintendent

"When will the Patterson Center be open?" is probably the most often-asked question in the city but after several major stumbling blocks have been overcome recently, its long-anticipated opening finally occurred Aug. 2.

Opening ceremonies were held Aug. 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and again Aug. 3 from 1 until 4 p.m. at the center featuring remarks by special dignitaries and extensive tours of the facility.

Murfreesboro's goal is to make the Patterson Park Community Center a show place – here are some features:

- a pool area includes four lanes for lap swimming, a whirlpool, zero depth or 'ocean effect' pool, a 20-foot high triple loop water slide and children's playground.
- a 305-seat theatre with quarter million dollar surround sound and lighting system, box office, green room, costume storage area, prop shop/storage room with dressing rooms and showers for men and women.
- activities for youth and adults of all ages showcasing both adult and youth gyms with separate showers and locker rooms. The adult version is equipped with a large stage and annex room for hosting catered banquets, dances and other large events. Two indoor hardwood racquetball courts are available, as well as outdoor tennis and basketball courts, playground, and multi-purpose field and walking path.
- over 20,000 square feet of wellness space devoted to state-of-the-art workout equipment along with jump, skip, kick and dance in our exercise/dance studio.
- a one-eighths mile, rubberized track on the second floor.
- a vending area that includes a variety of snacks and drinks, a television and café-style seating.
- a conference center including the latest books and magazines and a computer room with eight comput-



ers for surfing the Internet along with an arts and crafts room for beginning and advanced art projects.

- three meeting rooms each accommodating about 55 people and equipped with projection screens and audiovisual equipment for professional business presentation.
- a 175-seat dining room and full service kitchen available for rent including an original mural painted by the Murfreesboro Art League depicting familiar Murfreesboro historical landmarks.
- two outdoor courtyards, adjacent to the conference center furnished with tables, chairs and benches for outside leisure events and a brightly-decorated Tot Watch room will provide a well-trained and dedicated staff to facilitate age-appropriate programs and activities. Guidelines will require center patrons to be participating in activities at the center.
- a 4,000-square-foot game zone including a variety of age appropriate, non-violent video arcade game machines, pool tables, air hockey, ping-pong, bumper pool, and several board game tables.

The east wing will host a variety of educational and social programs through partnerships with Murfreesboro's Housing Authority, City Schools, and Police Department. Project GO/YIELD a drug prevention and education program for children ages 8-15 by the housing authority, adult literacy and life skills training through the school and community police support.

Information about the activities in Patterson center is available in the main lobby of the center and city employees are encouraged to examine the several membership options to see which most closely fits their schedule and budget.

Cut a Rug!

News from St. Clair Street Senior Center
By Brenda Kiskis Elliott, Program Director

St. Clair Street Senior Center (SCSSC) offers several evening dancing opportunities for individuals 60 years of age and older. The suggested donation for all dances is \$4 per person at the door. A senior group named *St. Clair Classics* facilitates the following evening dances during 2003:

- Aug. 9 - dance from 7 to 10 p.m. to the music of *Rolling Country* with Roy Gunter. *Rolling Country* is a very popular band, so arrive early!
- Sept. 13 from 7 to 10 p.m. dance to the music of *Debbie Bailes*. Debbie and her band play the oldies.

Join us in the center for the bi-annual Health and Education Fair Sept. 30 from 9 a.m. to noon. Some screenings offered are PSA's (for men only), complete blood chemistry, vision, hearing, oxygen saturation, blood pressure and osteoporosis checks. Most tests



require appointments and some have a nominal fee. Along with testing, vendors are available with information on new products and services helpful to seniors. Appointments may be made beginning Aug. 1.

The Bon Odori Family Dance Festival is scheduled for Saturday, August 23rd from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. at the Senior Center. This is an intergenerational and culturally diverse program with Japanese Bon Dance and America Line Dance as highlights. Audience participation is encouraged. This year is the 150th anniversary of Japan and the United States starting their friendship through Commodore Matthew Perry in 1853. Light refreshments are to be served and admission is free, however reservations are requested for planning purposes.

For more information about these events and other programs and services for seniors, stop by St. Clair Street Senior Center, 325 St. Clair St., Murfreesboro or call 848-2550.

And some valuable parting advice to seniors: "People don't stop playing because they get old. People get old because they stop playing."

Vehicle extrication services provided for Murfreesboro

Murfreesboro Fire Department (MFD) began in 2002 to prepare designated employees to provide vehicle extrication for Murfreesboro.

Since that time, the program has been highly successful with more-

than-expected numbers of calls answered and highly successful training of existing firefighting personnel.

The demanding course consists of three days of training that include one day in the classroom and two days at the junkyard where extrications are rehearsed. Classroom work covers commanding the extrication scene, anatomy of an automobile, scene safety, vehicle stabilization, door and top removal and several other basic vehicle extrication topics.

At the junkyard, the students practice stabilizing vehicles, removing doors, windows, and tops, and pushing dashboards off of victims.

Students that pass the course receive a training certificate from Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads (TARS). The certificate is good for two years.

Since December 2002, five classes have been taught with 15 students in each class for a total of 75 MFD personnel involved. MFD has more than 132 personnel trained in TARS Vehicle Extrication and 10 who have completed the advanced training.

Extrication units answered 168 accidents with injuries between Jan. 1 and June 30, 2003, according to department statistics, and 17 victims were removed from their vehicles.



Phillip Burns honored

Phillip Burns, Murfreesboro Department of Building and Codes building inspector, was presented with a plaque recently to mark his selection as Rutherford County Code official of the Year.

City gets better bang for the buck

By Rob Lyons, Assistant City Manager

Murfreesboro's 2003-2004 municipal budget, prepared by Roger Haley, Murfreesboro city manager, does not require a property tax increase.

"The current \$1.72 per \$100 of assessed property value is sufficient to fund operations into the new fiscal year" which runs from June 30 to July 1, according to a letter written to Murfreesboro City Council.

Here is a breakdown and history of the city's tax rate:

Reappraisals occurred in 1994, 1998 and 2002. After the 2002 reappraisal, the city council adopted the certified tax rate meaning your tax bill did not increase even though your house appraised for a higher amount. As you can see, the city's tax rate of \$1.72 is less than the rate of \$2.29 in 1993.

"We are proud of our efforts to be excellent stewards of the public's money," one city council member said recently.

The city's tax rate is now almost 25 percent less than it was 10 years ago. And this occurs at a time when the city is providing services to more residents. During this same 10-year period, the city's population increased from 46,420 to over 75,000.

Real Estate Tax Rate

FY Ending	Tax Rate	FY Ending	Tax Rate
1993	\$2.29	1999	\$1.90
1994	\$2.29	2000	\$1.90
1995	\$2.30	2001	\$1.90
1996	\$2.28	2002	\$1.90
1997	\$2.26	2003	\$1.72
1998	\$2.26	2004	\$1.72

Department Births

Renard and Anitra Brown (Fire)

Baby Girl: Morgan Allyse Brown
Born on 5/15/03 at 1:14 p.m.

Jon and Shannon Jenkins (Fire)

Baby Girl: Ashlyn Hays Jenkins
Born on 5/29/03 at 8 a.m.

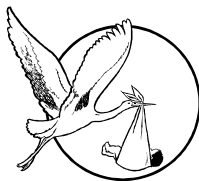
Mark and Wendi McCluskey (Fire)

Baby Boy: Michael Joseph McCluskey
Born on 6/30/03 at 7:46 p.m.

Mark and Kayce Hillis (Water - O&M)

Baby Boy: Hunter Hillis
Born on 8/6/03 at 11:14 a.m.

Please send any birth announcements for your department to Chris Shofner at cshofner@ci.murfreesboro.tn.us



Recent Retirees

NAME	DEPT.	POSITION
Donald Blanton	Fire	Captain
Terry Sneed	Fire	Firefighter
Billie Davis	Fire	Firefighter
John Swader	Fire	Captain
Henry G. Lowery	Fleet Services	Mechanic
J. Allen Gammons	Fleet Services	Mechanic
Terry J. Flagg	Police	Lieutenant
Richard Barrett	Solid Waste	Driver
David Wooten	Solid Waste	Lt. Equip. Operator
Bobby Reed	Solid Waste	Heavy Equip. Operator
Ray N. Walkup	Solid Waste	Driver
Floyd L. Smith	Street	Lt. Equip. Operator
Sam Bates	Water	Op. Mgr.
Ernest R. Sanders	Water	Equip. Operator
Billy Barrett	Water	Supt. Water Treatment
Steve Blanton	Water	Plant Mechanic
Mickey McCullough	Water	Receptionist

Squash Casserole

by Beth Becker and Doris Dalby
St. Clair Street Senior Center

2 1/4 lbs Crookneck Squash, sliced
1 small onion chopped
2 teaspoons sugar
salt and pepper to taste
3 tablespoons butter
1/2 cup sour cream (or mayonnaise)
1/2 cup dry bread crumbs
2 tablespoons butter, melted

Cook squash, onion, sugar, salt and pepper in water to barely cover for about 7 minutes. When fork tender, drain and mash with a potato masher. Add butter and sour cream. Put into a 1 1/2 quart baking dish. Combine bread crumbs with remaining butter and sprinkle on top of casserole. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until bubbly. Serves 6.

If you would like your favorite recipe published in the employee newsletter, submit it to Chris Shofner or anyone on the Public Information Committee. One will be printed in each edition.